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BRADEMAS URGES INCREASED INVESTMENT IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Indianapolis, Indiana, Friday, February 1

New York University President Emeritus and former United States Representative in Congress John Brademas today urged "a significant increase in Federal support for the study of other countries, cultures and languages" at the "Indiana Leadership for International Education Summit" meeting here today.

Brademas, who for twenty-two years (1959-1981) represented the Congressional district centered in South Bend, served as President of New York University (NYU) from 1981 until 1992, and since has been NYU President Emeritus.

The "Summit", sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company at the Lilly Corporate Center, is aimed at "positioning Indiana as a leader in international education, thereby providing a globally aware workforce and a leadership cadre for the future".

Brademas, who served on the Committee on Education and Labor of the U.S. House of Representatives, helped write all the measures enacted during the Administrations of six Presidents to support schools, colleges and universities; libraries and museums; the arts and the humanities; and to assist children, the elderly, the disabled.

In his last four years in Congress, he was Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, third-ranking member of the House Leadership.

The former Hoosier legislator spoke of the International Education Act of 1966, of which he was chief author, a measure that authorized grants from the Federal Government to colleges and universities for the study of other countries and cultures.

Said Brademas, "Then President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the International Education Act into law but Congress never appropriated the funds to implement it. And I argue that among the reasons the United States has suffered such serious problems in Viet Nam, Iraq, Iran and elsewhere is, not for that reason alone, of course, ignorance, ignorance of the histories, societies, cultures and languages of those countries.

"It is clearly in the interest of our national security that we have as deep an understanding of the rest of the world as possible, and such understanding is obviously essential to the American economy, to jobs for American workers and business for American companies."

Brademas told delegates to the conference of the development at NYU, the nation's largest private, or independent, university, of its international programs.

"In 1981, when I arrived at NYU, I found a regional—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut—commuter institution; and my goal was to transform it into a national and international, residential research university.

"I think it fair to say that we have accomplished that objective. A key feature of that transition was investment in international education.

"We established a Center for Japan-U.S. Business & Economic Studies in our Stern School of Business; a Center for European and Mediterranean Studies; with a gift from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, a professorship in Hellenic Studies; a chair in Latin American Studies; a Center for Islamic Studies.

"With a gift from a foundation established by the late Jack Skirball, an Evansville, Indiana rabbi who went into the motion picture business and became very successful, a Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies.

"Having written my Ph.D. at Oxford University on the anarchist movement in Spain, I take particular pride in the creation at NYU of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center for the study of modern Spain, a Center I dedicated just ten years ago, in the presence of His Majesty, the King; Her Majesty, Queen Sofía; and the then First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Added Brademas, "NYU also has thousands of students from countries all over the world attending classes in Manhattan.

"And New York University now has a number of centers abroad—in London, Paris, Prague, Florence, Madrid and Ghana; and we are now opening campuses in Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires and Shanghai.

"I have accepted an invitation to join other university presidents in writing an essay for a book to be handed to the next President of the United States with recommendations for Federal higher education policy. You may be sure that I will urge a significant increase in support for international education."

Among other speakers at the "Summit" were Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita; State Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed and Eli Lilly Chairman Emeritus, Randall L. Tobias.

REMARKS OF DR. JOHN BRADEMAS
PRESIDENT EMERITUS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
AND

FORMER (1959-1981) MEMBER,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (DEM.-IND.)

AT THE "LEADERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION SUMMIT"

SPONSORED BY ELI LILLY AND COMPANY
CORPORATE CENTER
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Friday, February 1, 2008

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, as I rise to speak, you may be surprised to learn that I am reminded of the first time I met Bill and Hillary Clinton.

It was in 1983, in Oxford, England, at a world reunion of Rhodes Scholars, among whom were William Jefferson Clinton, then Governor of Arkansas, and I.

I'm sure you know that another former Rhodes Scholar is our distinguished senior United States Senator from Indiana, Richard Lugar.

The final event of the reunion was a lovely dinner in the gardens of Trinity College, Oxford, at which the principal speaker was the former British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, who spoke on the joys of studying at Oxford, which he had also done.

I went up to Macmillan after dinner, congratulated him on his talk and said, "Prime Minister"—once Prime Minister, always Prime Minister!—"as I am a native of the State of Indiana, it gives me great pride to know that your mother was born in Spencer, Indiana."

Macmillan, clearly pleased but surprised, replied, "Ah then, we ah fellow Hoosiahs!"

So I am, as a native of South Bend and Mishawaka, whose mother was born in Indiana, delighted to be back here among "fellow Hoosiahs"!

At the outset, I want to applaud the great Indiana-based multinational corporation which has made possible this meeting. Eli Lilly is a name that does us all proud, particularly because of its support of education.

Allow me to address the subject of this "Summit".

First, I remind you that my late mother was a teacher in the public schools of Indiana for many years, and that her father, who lived in Swayzee, in Grant County, was a high school superintendent and university professor.

My own late father was a Greek immigrant, who told his children, "I'll not leave you much money"—which was true! "but I will leave you all a first-class education", and that was true as well and, of course, was the finest legacy of all.

My sister is a retired public school teacher, one brother, a retired university professor and another was an architect and city planner.

I had the good fortune of studying at two of the greatest universities in the world, Harvard and Oxford.

As a schoolboy in South Bend, I read a book about Mayan civilization, which fascinated me. I started learning Spanish, then as a high school senior hitchhiked with a classmate to Mexico and, as a Harvard undergraduate, spent a summer with other college men working in Aztec Indian villages in rural Mexico on a kind of early form of Peace Corps.

I wrote my senior honors thesis at Harvard on the Sinarquista movement, a far right-wing peasant movement, important in Mexico in the late 1930s and early '40s.

At Oxford, I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation on the anarchist movement in Spain from the mid-1920s through the first year of the Spanish Civil War, 1936.

That I continue to employ my Spanish, you may be interested to know, is evidenced by my having participated last November in an international symposium on political leadership, in the town of Jalapa, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

I was asked to deliver a lecture on “Hillary Rodham Clinton as Political Leader”—and I did.

I add that several years ago, President Clinton appointed me Chairman of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and Hillary Clinton, then the First Lady of the United States, was Honorary Chair of the Committee, and so I had the chance to work with her and was highly impressed by her thoughtfulness and seriousness of purpose.

The President’s Committee wrote a report, Creative America, calling for increased support for cultural activities in the United States. We included among our recommendations a call for greater support for the study of other countries and cultures as well as for international scholarly exchanges and exhibitions abroad of works by American artists and performers.

For seven years I chaired what is now known as the National Endowment for Democracy, an organization, financed by the Federal Government, established during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan and a Democratic-controlled Congress. NED, as we call it, makes grants to private organizations in countries that either do not enjoy democracy or are struggling to achieve it.

I add that CED, the Committee for Economic Development, an organization of a couple of hundred corporate executives and a few university presidents, of whom I am one, published a report in 2006, which I helped produce, entitled, Education for Global Leadership: The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language Education for U.S. Economic and National Security.

I myself continue to travel. Not too long ago I was in Guatemala to address a conference sponsored by Transparency International, the organization that combats corruption in international business transactions.

In 2007 I gave talks in Athens and Cyprus where President Tassos Papadopoulos decorated former Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland and me because of our actions in Congress following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in the Summer of 1974, with weapons supplied by the United States, an illegal use of U.S. assistance.

In recent years I have made speeches in Istanbul, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Moscow, and I recently visited Doha, Qatar, for a conference on the Middle East sponsored by Forbes magazine.

My successors as President of New York University, L. Jay Oliva, an American of Irish-Italian origin, who is an authority on the history of the Russian Empire and founder of NYU's Ireland House; and John Sexton, a scholar of comparative religion, Harvard Law School graduate, former Clerk to the Chief Justice of the United States and Dean of the NYU Law School, both share my enthusiasm for international studies and they continued during their administrations a commitment to establish NYU campuses abroad as well as international study centers at Washington Square.

Indeed, in recent months President Sexton has been eloquent in describing New York University as "a global university".

Let me return to my years before coming to New York University. Only months after leaving Oxford, I was running for Congress from the District centered in South Bend.

I lost my first race, in 1954, with 49.5 percent of the total vote.

Obviously, I would run again, and after a fascinating year on the staff of Adlai Stevenson in his second presidential campaign, I did—in 1956.

That year Stevenson and I lost a second time. But I still thought I could win, and in 1958, on my third try, I was first elected, then ten times reelected.

So I served as a United States Representative in Congress from Indiana for twenty-two years, all of them on the House Committee on Education and Labor, and during the Administrations of six Presidents, I helped write all the measures enacted during those years to support

schools, colleges and universities, libraries and museums, the arts and the humanities, and to assist children, the elderly, the disabled.

In my last four years on Capitol Hill, I was the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, third-ranking member of the House Leadership.

Now you must remember that in our American separation-of-powers constitutional system, Congress, unlike the legislature in a parliamentary system, has the power to make national policy, and to do so independently of the Executive.

If a Senator or Representative is skillful, and the political forces at the time make action possible, that Senator or Congressman can, without picking up the telephone to call the White House, write the laws of the land.

And I did, and so did other Senators and Representatives, on both sides of the aisle. One example of such an initiative is the International Education Act of 1966, of which I was chief author in the House of Representatives.

This legislation authorized grants from the Federal Government to colleges and universities for the study of other countries and cultures. Advising the Committee and me in writing this measure was the great Chancellor of Indiana University, Herman B. Wells, and I was also able to call on perhaps my most famous constituent, Father Theodore Hesburgh, then President of the University of Notre Dame.

Then President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the International Education Act into law but, I regret to say, Congress never appropriated the funds to implement it.

And I argue that among the reasons the United States has suffered such serious problems in Vietnam, Iraq, Iran and elsewhere is, not for that reason alone, of course, ignorance, ignorance of the histories, the societies, the cultures and languages of those countries.

Accordingly, I want to commend Eli Lilly for organizing this discussion of what I believe to be an imperative—investing seriously in international education.

Here I am pleased to note the leadership of Congressman Rush Holt of New Jersey, who has introduced legislation, the International Education Leadership Act of 2008, which would create the position of Assistant Secretary of International and Foreign Language in the U.S. Department of Education.

Recognizing that international and foreign language programs are scattered throughout the Department of Education, Mr. Holt's bill would consolidate the administration of all such measures under an executive appointed by the President and reporting to the Secretary of Education.

I commend Congressman Holt on this initiative, which is clearly within the spirit of my own International Education Act of 1966.

Now I remind you that as a Member of Congress, I had the opportunity to travel to many countries—not so many, I am sure, as Senator Lugar, as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee!—but I visited, among others, Greece, Turkey, the then Soviet Union, Germany, France, Argentina, Peru, Poland and Hungary, the Czech Republic, Japan and, indeed, just thirty years ago, I led the first Congressional delegation during the Administration of President Carter to visit the People's Republic of China. In fact, I plan, as I shall shortly explain, to return to China this summer.

Let me leap ahead. In 1980 I was caught up in the Reagan landslide and defeated in my race for reelection to a twelfth term.

Shortly thereafter, I was invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States.

Headquartered in the heart of Greenwich Village, New York City, NYU, as it is known, today has over 50,000 men and women enrolled as students with a total full-time faculty of nearly 3,400 and total part-time faculty of nearly 4,000.

Given what I've told you about my own education and my experience in Congress, you will not be surprised that I brought with me from Washington, D.C., to Washington Square a commitment to international studies.

In 1981, when I arrived at NYU, I found a regional—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut—commuter institution; and my goal was to transform it into a national and international residential research university.

And I think it is fair to say that, with considerable success in raising private funds and with a strong Board of Trustees, dedicated faculty and staff, we have accomplished that objective.

A key feature of that transition was investment in international education.

Already strong in French and German Studies when I arrived, I undertook initiatives in other areas.

We established a Center for Japan-U.S. Business & Economic Studies in our Stern School of Business; with a gift from the film actress Paulette Goddard, the widow of the writer, Erich Maria Remarque, author of All Quiet on the Western Front, a Center for European and Mediterranean Studies; with a gift from a foundation established by the late Jack Skirball, an Evansville, Indiana rabbi who went into the motion picture business and became very successful, a Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies.

The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, created by Aristotle S. Onassis, financed a professorship in Hellenic Studies.

You will not be surprised to hear me say that I take particular pride in the creation at NYU of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, for the study of modern Spain, a Center I dedicated just ten years ago, in the presence of His Majesty, the King; Her Majesty, Queen Sofía, of the Greek Royal Family; and the then First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

With funds from CITGO, the United States branch of Venezuelan Petroleum, we also created a Chair in Latin American Studies in the name of Andrés Bello, the Venezuelan leader and tutor of Simón Bolívar.

A few years ago, in a lecture in Rabat, Morocco, I observed that very few of us in New York City ever meet a Muslim, and, I said, so important has Islam become as a force in the world, I thought that at least some universities in the United States should establish programs

for Islamic studies—and I'm glad to say that we now have such a Center at NYU.

But the dedication of New York University to international studies does not end with the creation of these centers and programs in New York City.

We also have thousands of students from countries all over the world attending classes in Manhattan. Indeed, international students make up eleven percent of our total student enrollment and, more specifically, eighteen percent of our graduate enrollment.

And particularly important, New York University now has a number of Centers abroad—in London, Paris, Prague, Florence, Madrid and Ghana; and we are now opening campuses in Abu Dhabi, Buenos Aires and Shanghai.

Indeed, my wife and I will join other NYU leaders in visiting China this summer.

I may add that she and I will even next month return to England where we shall take part at Ditchley Park, a conference center outside Oxford, in a discussion of "U.S. Foreign Policy After Bush".

Now I have not attempted in these remarks to give you all the arguments for investing in the study of other countries and cultures.

There are obviously reasons political, economic, cultural and diplomatic.

It is clearly crucial in the interest of our national security that we have as deep—and widespread—an understanding of the rest of the world as possible. And such understanding, is obviously good for the American economy, jobs for American workers, and business for American companies, like Eli Lilly.

So I warmly applaud Eli Lilly for bringing us all together in Indianapolis today.

I conclude by saying that I have accepted an invitation to join other university presidents in writing an essay for a book to be handed

to the next President of the United States with recommendations for Federal higher education policy.

You may be sure that I intend to urge a significant increase in Federal support for international education, and I shall in my essay refer to this "Summit".

Thank you again for the privilege of participating in these discussions.